

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PHIL-AM FRIENDSHIP DAY 1977

1. SUMMARY. PHIL-AM GALA ON JULY 4, WHICH INCLUDED WARM EXPRESSION OF FRIENDSHIP FOR US BY PRESIDENT MARCOS, SERVED USEFULLY TO POINT UP FUNDAMENTAL STRENGTH OF THE US-RP RELATIONSHIP. SOME CONCURRENT NEGATIVE PRESS SLANT, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS A REMINDER OF TROUBLING ISSUES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO THE MILITARY BASES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT MARCOS SPOKE AT PHIL-AM FRIENDSHIP GALA LATE JULY 4. HE EMPHASIZED RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL U.S. HAD IN PHILIPPINES AND EMPHASIZED (ALTHOUGH LESS THAN JULY 5 PRESS REPORTS AND HEADLINES SUGGEST) GOP SUPPORT FOR U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN. AT SAME TIME HE DEFENDED, ALBEIT INDIRECTLY, HIS MARTIAL LAW REGIME NOTING: "OUR SENSE OF INDIVIDUALITY HAS LED US TO RESIST SOME OF THE VALUES AMERICA HAS SOUGHT TO IMPLANT UPON OUR NATIVE SOIL AND THERE ARE SOME GIFTS WE HAVE HAD

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TO REJECT AS NOT ENTIRELY FIT TO OUR NATIONAL TEMPERMENT." BOTH PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS ATTENDED GALA DINNER AND PERFORMANCE BY ALVIN AILEY DANCE GROUP AT CULTURAL CENTER EARLIER IN EVENING. PRESIDENT STATED THIS FIRST TIME HE HAS PARTICIPATED IN PHIL-AM FRIENDSHIP DAY CLEBRATION OF THIS NATURE.

3. THE SIXTEENTH CELEBRATION OF PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY JULY 4 ALSO PROVIDED OCCASION FOR UNUSUAL ATTENTION TO US/RP PROBLEMS IN MANILA PRESS. COVERAGE RANGED FROM PLANTING OF 201 IPIL IPIL TREES ON CHANCERY GROUNDS, FRONT-PAGED WITH PICTURE IN DAILY EXPRESS, TO ACERBIC COLUMN BY TEODORO VALENCIA CALLING PHIL-AM FRIENDSHIP DAY A "COLONIAL CELEBRATION" AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION WOULD BE THE LAST.

4. BITTEREST OF ALL ATTACKS APPEARED IN JULY 4 VALENCIA COLUMN. VALENCIA CHARGED THAT U.S. IS RAPIDLY ERODING DEEP STRAIN OF GOOD WILL WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN FILIPINOS AND AMERICANS BY INSISTING ON EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY (FOR U.S. BASES) AND IMMUNITY FROM PHILIPPINE LAWS (FOR U.S. SERVICEMEN). HIS FORMULA FOR PHIL-AM FRIENDSHIP REQUIRES REMOVAL OF U.S. BASES, WHILE STOPPING JUST SHORT OF ENDORSING VALENCIA'S DEMAND FOR THE REMOVAL OF BASES, DAILY EXPRESS NOTED NOT TOO SUBTLY THE CURRENT "CLAMOR" FOR A U.S. MILITARY WITHDRAWAL. EDITORIAL MERELY CALLED FOR SERIOUS RE-EXAMINATION OF US/RP RELATIONS. DAILY EXPRESS TOPPED OFF ITS EDITORIAL COMMENT WITH CARTOON ATTACKING DEPARTURES FROM THE PHILIPPINES OF U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS FACING CHARGES IN PHILIPPINE COURTS.

5. THE QUESTION OF U.S. BASES ALSO EXCITED TWO TIMES JOURNAL COLUMNISTS. IN JULY 4 ARTICLE, FRANCISCO DE LEON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASKED WHEN THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD RESUME, RESTATED PHILIPPINE POSITION THAT IT RETAINS SOVEREIGNTY OVER BASES AND IS ENTITLED TO RENT, AND ALSO REVIEWED ISSUE OF DEPARTING U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS BEFORE THE RESOLUTION OF JUDICIAL ACTION AGAINST THEM. IN COLUMN ON FOLLOWING DAY ERNESTO GRANADA CALLED ON CLARK BASE COMMANDERS TO REMAIN IN THE PHILIPPINES AS A CONTRIBUTION TO US/ PHILIPPINE FRIENDSHIP. IN SEVERAL LONG ARTICLES JULY 4, TIMES JOURNAL ALSO NOTED IMPORTANCE OF U.S. ECONOMIC TIES TO THE PHILIPPINES --"INVESTMENTS HERE OVER BILLION DOLLARS"--THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF U.S. INVESTMENT DESPITE THE EXPIRATION OF THE LAUREL-LANGLEY AGREEMENT AND THE U.S. LEGACY OF EDUCATION TO THE PHILIPPINES.

6. CONCERN WITH US/RP RELATIONS WAS NOT UNANIMOUS HOWEVER. NEITHER THE BULLETIN TODAY NOR THE TAGALOG-LANGUAGE PAPER, BALITA, NOTED PHIL-AM FRIENDSHIP DAY IN THEIR JULY 4 EDITIONS.

7. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S REMARKS EMPHASIZING DURABILITY OF US-RP RELATIONSHIP, WERE WARM AND FRIENDLY. OCCASION IN GENERAL SERVED

USEFULLY TO POINT UP FUNDAMENTAL STRENGTH OF BILATERAL TIE.
SHARP PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE OTHER HAND IS A REMINDER OF
MANAGEABLE BUT TROUBLING ISSUES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES,
MOST NOTABLY THOSE RELATED TO THE BASES AND PARTICULARLY TO
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